

Adult Smoking

Since the passage of Proposition 99 in 1988, the adult smoking prevalence in California has declined significantly from 22.8% in 1988 to 15.4% in 2004, as measured by the *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* (BRFSS) and *California Adult Tobacco Survey* (CATS).

In viewing the adult smoking trend, it is important to note that the revised current smoker definition developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was used beginning in 1996. This resulted in the inclusion of more “occasional smokers” and thus raised prevalence estimates by one to two percentage points in 1996 and subsequent years.

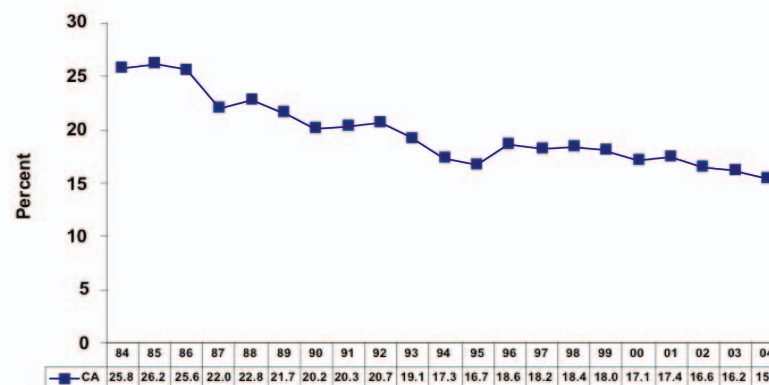
Adult Prevalence

- The California adult smoking prevalence was 15.4% in 2004.
- Since the passage of Proposition 99 in 1988, the adult smoking prevalence decreased by approximately 32% from 22.8% to 15.4%.
- Based on the 2004 population, there are approximately 3.9 million current adult smokers in California.

Adult Prevalence by Age

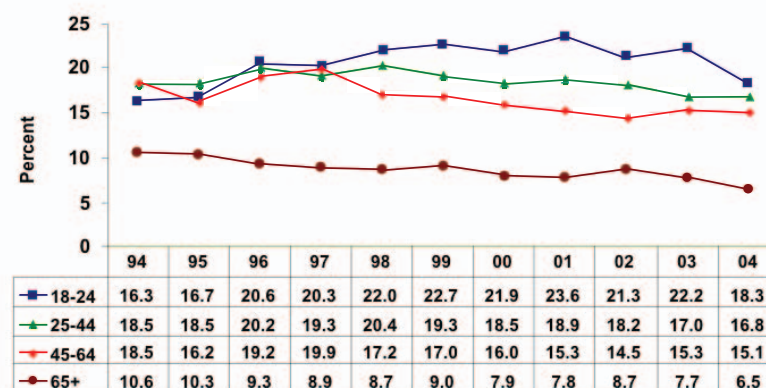
- In 2004, the 18–24 age group has the highest smoking prevalence at 18.3% among the four age groups, followed by the 25–44 age group at 16.8%, and the 45–64 age group at 15.1%. The 65+ age group has the lowest prevalence at 6.5%.
- In 2004, the percentage gap between the 18–24 age group and each of the other age groups is the smallest since 1997.
- Between 1996 and 2004, smoking prevalence has declined for people over the age of 25.
- In the last 10 years, the smoking prevalence for the 45–64 age group declined from one of the highest in 1994 (18.5%, tied with the 25–44 age group) to the second lowest in 2004 (15.1%).
- The 65+ age group has had the lowest smoking prevalence and a declining trend throughout the 10-year period from 1994 to 2004. The rate was 10.6% in 1994 and dropped to 6.5% in 2004.

California Adult Smoking Prevalence,
1984–2004

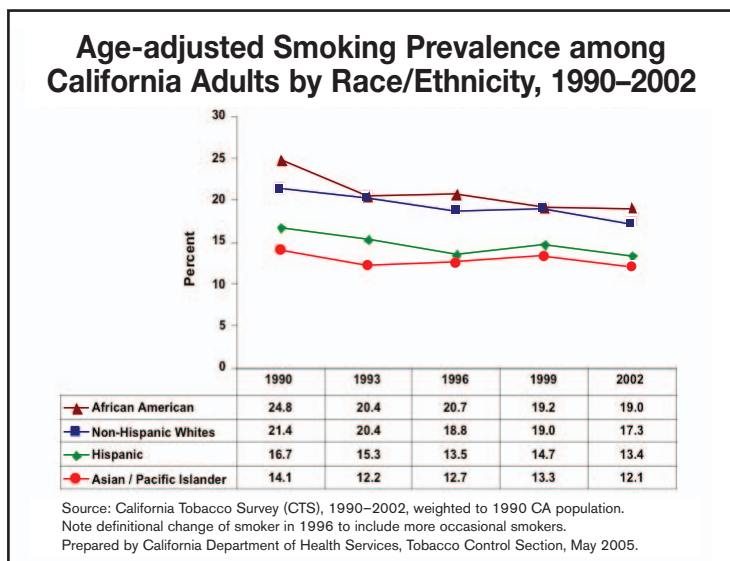
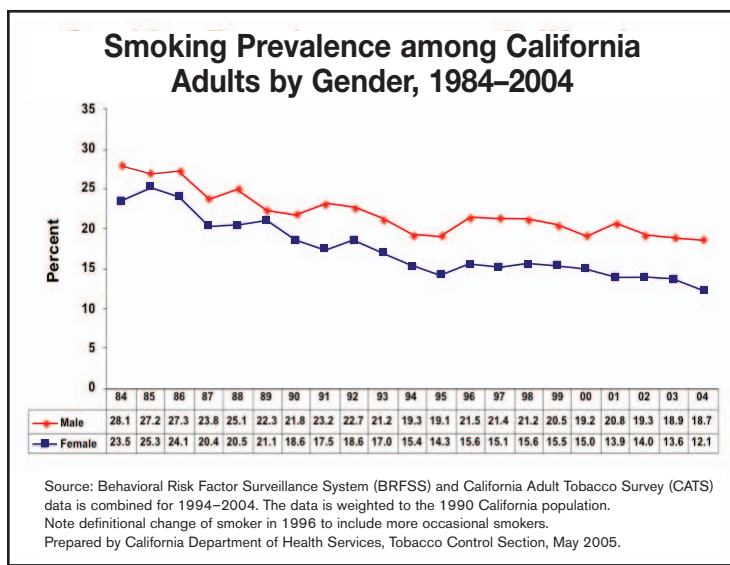


Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 1984–1992, and California Adult Tobacco Survey (CATS) data is combined for 1993–2004. The data is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Note definitional change of smoker in 1996 to include more occasional smokers.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.

Smoking Prevalence among California
Adults by Age Group, 1994–2004



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and California Adult Tobacco Survey (CATS) data is combined for 1994–2004. The data is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Note definitional change of smoker in 1996 to include more occasional smokers.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.



Adult Prevalence by Gender

- Men had higher smoking prevalence rates than women from 1984 to 2004.
- The prevalence of smoking among men and women had similar trends from 1992 to 2000, and then diverged in 2001.
- Women have had a greater decline in smoking than men.

Adult Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2002, African Americans and non-Hispanic whites had significantly higher smoking prevalence than either Hispanics or Asian and Pacific Islanders at 19.0% (n=3,593), 17.3% (n=41,108), 13.4% (n=7,268), and 12.1% (n=6,464), respectively.
- All groups declined in prevalence from 1999 to 2002.
- The greatest percentage decline in prevalence occurred among Hispanic women from 11.6% in 1990 to 7.4% in 2002.
- The prevalence among Asian and Pacific Islanders and Hispanic women were less than half the rates of men in the same ethnic groups.

About the Survey

The *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* (1984–present) and the *California Adult Tobacco Survey* (1993–present) are random digit-dial telephone surveys of approximately 8,000 adults conducted annually by the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Unit of the Cancer Surveillance Section of the CDHS. Data have been weighted to the 1990 California population using gender, four race groups, and two age groups.

The *California Tobacco Survey* (CTS) (1990, 1992–1993, 1996, 1999, and 2002), funded by the Tobacco Control Section of the CDHS, has been conducted by the Cancer Prevention and Control program of the University of California, San Diego. The *California Tobacco Survey* is a very large telephone survey that includes a screener survey, an adult extended survey, and a youth survey.

California Adult Smoking Prevalence, Race/Ethnicity within Gender 1990–2002					
	1990	1993	1996	1999	2002
Male					
African American	27.6	23.8	23.8	25.0	21.4
Asian	22.2	17.9	17.8	21.6	17.7
Hispanic	23.3	21.0	19.2	22.9	19.0
Non-Hispanic White	22.8	21.4	20.3	20.6	19.4
Female					
African American	23.9	18.2	20.1	16.5	17.0
Asian	8.2	5.8	7.5	6.9	6.8
Hispanic	11.6	8.9	8.8	9.5	7.4
Non-Hispanic White	19.8	19.0	17.4	18.2	15.2

*Definition change in 1996 resulted in an increase in the number of "occasional smokers" being counted.
Source: California Tobacco Survey (CTS), 1990–2002, weighted to 1990 CA population.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.

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